

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No. 030901
Application No. 10/626,675

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 14-16 and 21 will be pending in the present application. Claims 14-16 are herein amended. Claims 13 and 17-20 are herein canceled. New claim 21 has been added. No new matter has been presented. Applicant submits that this Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on August 20, 2009.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Kacker during the telephonic interview conducted on December 14, 2009. Attached claim 21 includes the Examiner's suggested allowable claim language.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 13-20 were rejected under the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. §112. To expedite prosecution and clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention, Applicant herein cancels claims 13 and 17-20 and submit new claim 21. In view of these amendments, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of claims 14-16 and 21.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102/103

Claims 13-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over *Goodman et al* (US 6454865).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the cited reference for the reasons discussed in Applicant's previously filed responses, in particular the response filed on September 30, 2008.

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However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant herein cancels claims 13 and 17-20 and submits new claim 21 (*e.g.*, further clarifying the subject matter of the present invention.) As explained above, Examiner Kacker expressed during our previous telephone interview that the language recited in new claim 21 is allowable over the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reconsideration of claims 14-16 and 21.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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